

# clarke college COURIER

Dec. 4, 2008

dubuque, iowa

Vol. LXXV

Issue No. Five

## Students try out homelessness

lacey reynolds  
opinion editor



Merry Christmas!

### campus life



Clarke dance team to compete in Hip Hop dance competition.

### arts etc.



Celebrate Christmas with a few unconventional films about the holiday season.

### weather



High 26°  
Low 21°

**O**n Friday, Nov. 14, Clarke students bravely bundled up in their warmest clothes and gathered as many blankets as they could carry in hopes of staying warm in their cardboard boxes. Twelve students slept out on the Atrium lawn through the cold night to better understand what it is like to be homeless in the winter. The simulation "sleep out" was organized by the Clarke Social Work Club, Campus Ministry, Respect Life and the Art Club to raise awareness about homelessness.

Molly Williams, sophomore social work and psychology major, and Jessi Crain, junior physical education and sports management major, were two of the organizers of the simulation. Jessi said she participated in a similar homeless simulation in high school and thought it would be a good idea to bring the project to Clarke.

The Social Work Club was originally going to participate in the Dubuque-wide sleep out, but the group thought it would be better to do the simulation at Clarke so the project could hit closer to home with the students here.

Both Jessi and Molly believe the night went well overall. "We had more than expected attend," said Molly. "And with there being a basketball game that night, I think we got our point across and

brought awareness to everyone."

As part of the simulation, participating students were given a chance to weatherize cardboard box "homes." They were given garbage bags and newspaper to keep out weather elements for the night, and Clarke permitted the students to have a small fire pit.

Emmy Esser, senior athletic training and physical therapy major, chose to adorn the exterior of her box with the garbage bags to help protect it from the wind and rain. For the inside she crinkled up newspaper to insulate it better. "I tried to be practical and realistic," she said.

The cottage-like box home of Andy Bishop, sophomore secondary education major, was a favorite among the participants. "I was playing pool in the Bean Scene when I saw a rather large cardboard tube sitting next to the garbage can," Andy said. "I immediately thought, 'CHIMNEY' and decided to make a box cottage."

Despite the visual appeal of An-



photo by matt adams

Students gather around a fire during the homeless simulation. Students slept in cardboard boxes on the Atrium lawn.

dy's chimney, he eventually realized that there is a reason homeless people do not add chimneys to their boxes. After awhile Andy closed the chimney because it was causing a draft to enter his "home."

The weather played a significant role in the homeless simulation. "It was expected to snow so everyone was concerned about the wind and keeping the boxes from getting wet," Molly said. "We wanted to keep it as real as possible with a limited number of resources since

many homeless people have so much less than what we provided. I think the members got the feel of what it was like to worry about their box knowing they couldn't get another."

Andy said he thinks he better understands how cold it gets at night after this experience and that understanding that has helped him to see what a homeless person has to go through.

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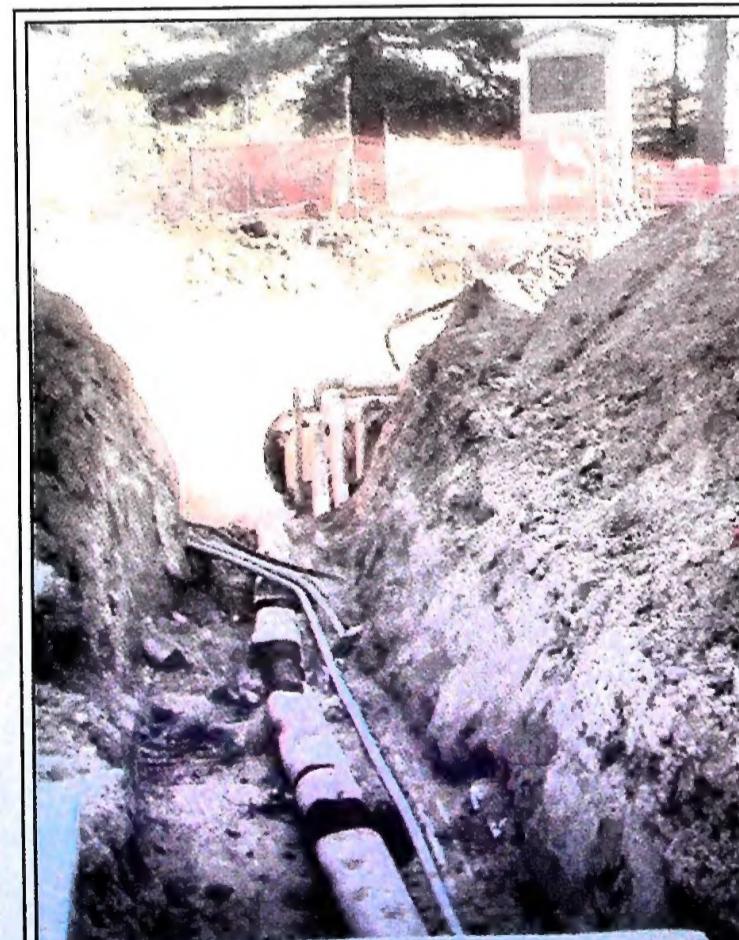


photo by matt adams  
An steam pipe lies exposed on the front lawn of Eliza Kelly Hall. The cause of the problem is unknown and has been under investigation for several weeks.

## International students brave the cold

phillip flores  
staff writer

**W**ell know that winter here in Iowa is very bitter, right? Actually no, we do not all know. At Clarke we have 17 international students this semester coming from 10 different countries. So being new to this country, most of them really have no idea what to expect in the winter months ahead.

Freshman Josh Lister comes from a place where the sun is always shining and it never drops below 50 degrees. As we prepare for the cold, Lister who is from Australia, said this time of year it is between 100-120 degrees and humid where he lives. He also just purchased his first coat ever.

"I am used to wearing nothing but board shorts, a tee-shirt and sandals year round," said Josh "but now I have to go out wearing six or seven layers of clothing to keep warm going to the SAC."

On the other hand, George Reed and Peter Bayliss are both from London, England. They say temperatures drop between 25-40 degrees and it may snow two to three times a year, but it usually just rains. They both seemed to come to the conclusion that they were simply going to layer up or stay indoors this winter.

"I am looking forward to the snow but not the cold," said George. Peter agreed and said, "I cannot wait to go snowboarding and sledding."

Maria Vilar from Venezuela said she also wants to do winter activities like skiing, snowboarding and sledding this winter.

"It will be only the second time I have seen snow, but I already want summer to come back," said Maria.

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Dec. 4, 2008

## Clarke dance team kicks it into high gear

emily ludovissy  
staff writer

Clarke College Dance Team

While Clarke has had a spirit team for many years, this year the team is kicking it up a notch and will be competing in the state competition in Des Moines Dec. 5. The team will be competing

in the Hip Hop division with Central College and William Penn. Ten dancers will be on the competition team.

"I found it to be a chance to be involved with and represent Clarke along with con-

tinuing something that I have loved to do my whole life," said team captain Rebecca Harman, senior biology major.

Becca Bahl, sophomore business/Spanish major, said, "I hope to do well at the competition. We have been working very hard and want to show the rest of the state what we can bring to the table."

Julie Weires and Alyssa Dalsing are the co-coaches of the team this year. They are off to a good start and love to see the team performing in front of a crowd.

"Our goal is to promote school spirit and expand into more technique," said Weires. "We have a great freshmen class who have danced previously, and a group of upper-classmen with a wide range of experience who work hard."

The team attended a technique clinic and learned how to do turns, leaps and body work. A routine that Brandee Huston, Molly McCormick and Rachelle Smith put together has illusions, a "fish flop" and multiple types of turns and leaps.

"Last year there were a few double turns and one or two leaps, but nothing that compares to the level this year," said Weires.

The squad will be performing exhibitions

at the Cascade, Bellevue and Beckman High Schools in February. In the future the team hopes to keep going to the Des Moines competition and even reach the regional competition at the Mall of America in Minneapolis.

"Before the freshmen are seniors, it could be possible," said Weires.

Dalsing said, "I expect that our team performs its routine the best it has ever performed. If they give their all, there isn't anything more we can ask of them."

"My favorite moment is any time we are learning a new routine and the girls hit it perfectly for the first time," said Dalsing. "It is awesome to see the hard work that Julie, myself and the girls have put in and see it pay off."

Look for new things this year during the games at Clarke such as promotional posters and possible raffles during half-time.

The spirit squad is looking forward to the men's and women's basketball seasons.

"We will be performing at all of the halftimes of the conference games next semester and we will still be there cheering on the team for all of the games," said Rebecca.

Dec. 4, 2008  
Unconven  
aaron rhomberg  
sports editor

Every Christmas, movies that are regularly televised. Then there are some movies that involve the sea, but offer a view that is not encountered as often.

Films such as "A Christmas Story," "Miracle on 34th Street," "A Wonderful Life," and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" are shown through our Christmas day. However, seeing the same movies year after year can become boring, so here are some options that can add more excitement to the day.

In "Die Hard," and "Die Hard 2," the hero cop John McClain tries to thwart terrorist plots of greed and destruction while trying to make it out safe so he can be with his family for Christmas. Another action movie that shows a darker side to the holidays is "Batman Returns." In this exciting action film, the Caped Crusader takes on the cunning villains Penguin and Catwoman

and possible raffles during half-time.

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All

## International students

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Peter Edgar from Northern Ireland said that the weather here is similar to home with few snow showers but it is not as cold. They have a longer rainy season than they do cold winter months where it drops to around 48 degrees.

"I like the climate here overall but the extremes are a little unbearable," said Peter. "The heat is okay until the humidity comes, it gets kind of hard to play sports."

The Clarke staff held an International Student meeting in the beginning of the year. Peter said they informed the internationals that it gets quite cold, and to prepare for severe temperature drops in December and January.

For break, Peter Edgar is planning on going to Texas to help with the recovery of Hurricane Ike. He is also waiting to hear from a few other organizations, he may be able to join and volunteer for, to escape the cold.

## Homeless simulation

continued from page 1

"Even though I had blankets and multiple layers on, the wind still managed to penetrate some of the small gaps in the cardboard and make my blankets cold," Andy said. "I remember waking up to the wind whistling and a really cold temperature and not being able to fall asleep for close to half an hour. It was really difficult to get comfortable in a box on the ground, regardless of how many times I've slept outside before."

Jessi also found sleeping outside to be a challenge, but did her best to turn that challenge into a learning experience. "I gained a new appreciation for shelter, such as my dorm room," she said. "I kept reflecting on the fact that I could go inside in the morning and go back to sleep in my bed, but a homeless person would not have that luxury."

Some people got so cold that they wanted to sleep with other people. "One of our rules



photo by matt adams

Clarke students made their own "homes" to sleep in for the homeless simulation on the Atrium front lawn.

was that there could only be one person to a box," Molly said. "We figured homeless people would be very possessive of their items and we wanted to keep it real."

Molly also said that in "keeping it real," the organizers of the simulation based the simula-

tion off the stereotypical image of a homeless person would sleep. "I know there are a lot of aspects that couldn't cover due to the fact that we were limited on time and knowledge," she said. "But the Social Work Club served a meal right before the sleep out so those who participated in the got to meet real homeless people and others in need. That experience probably enhanced the experience of the sleep out."

Andy and Emmy agreed with Molly that there were some parts of the simulation that were not entirely realistic. "We had more supplies than most homeless people do," Emmy said.

"We had multiple layered clothes and blankets or sleeping bags," Andy added. "We also had time to construct these wonderful box houses. Homeless people don't always have those same luxuries, but I think it was as close as students can come without actually being homeless."

## Here we come a-caroling

justin curry  
extras editor

As our semester comes to an end, many students have a lot on their minds: the holiday season, deciding what things to bring home, and of course, the dreaded finals. One group of Clarke students has decided to take another route. Fifteen students will be caroling around our campus during the last week of classes.

Chris Kruse, senior computer science major and music minor, organized the group of students and their selection of music. "Since the semester ends so early this year, there isn't really much time to get into the Christmas spirit, and so the caroling group is aiming to," he said. "Generally we are caroling just to spread cheer."

The group will be caroling around the Atrium, the SAC, and possibly outside the cafeteria. "The idea to carol came about when I was hanging out with a couple of friends and we were randomly singing songs in a lounge, and I posed the idea to them," said Chris.

The carolers are not only singing; they are also doing a canned-food drive in coalition with the Clarke Math Club.

Chris says that should you encounter the carolers, you shouldn't be afraid to join in. "Anyone who feels like celebrating the most that they can while still on campus should come in and sing," he said.



Fifteen Clarke students gather in the SAC to perform Christmas carols during the last week of classes.

photo by matt adams

# ARTS ETC.

Dec. 4, 2008

## Unconventional Christmas classics

aaron rhomberg  
sports editor

Every Christmas, movies that show the warm, loving tradition of the holidays are regularly televised. Then there are some movies that involve the season, but offer a view that is not encountered as often.

Films such as "A Christmas Story," "Miracle on 34th Street," "A Wonderful Life," and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" are shown throughout Christmas day. However, seeing the same movies year after year can become boring, so here are some options that can add more excitement to the day.

In "Die Hard," and "Die Hard 2," the hero cop John McClain tries to thwart terrorist plots of greed and destruction while trying to make it out safe so he can be with his family for Christmas. Another action movie that shows a darker side to the holidays is "Batman Returns." In this exciting action film, the Caped Crusader takes on the cunning villains Penguin and Catwoman who try to set up the Dark Knight in order to gain control of Gotham City. The film begins when the Penguin sends his army to terrorize the people of Gotham during their



annual lighting of the Christmas tree.

For those who want a good laugh, there are two titles that stand out. The first is "Gremlins." The 1984 hit about creatures wreaking havoc in a small town is full of dark humor over the course of the Christmas season. In 2003, a comedy involving Santa Claus became a cult success. "Bad Santa" stars Billy Bob Thornton, John Ritter and Bernie Mac. It is the story of a Santa who works for a mall during the holidays to gain access after closing time to rob the mall. Along the way,

he befriends a kid who is being bullied and gains a new outlook on life. While funny, the film does contain language and humor that may not be appropriate for everyone.

Then there are two Christmas movies that instead of bringing joy and happiness bring terror and death. "Silent Night Deadly Night" is a story about a boy who has a traumatic experience involving Santa. When he grows up, he witnesses an act that drives him insane and seeks out those in the town whom he deems as naughty. Upon its release, the film created controversy among parents for being too violent and portraying Santa as a murderer.

"Black Christmas" tells the tale of sorority sisters who are staying at their residence on Christmas during a snow storm. One by one they are being stalked by a serial killer in the house. The killer's identity in the original movie is never revealed.

While most people enjoy the many classics

that make Christmas wonderful, these alternative films offer a counter programming option and bring action, humor, and terror to a season that is regarded as peaceful and happy. They help bring a new level of excitement that most people can enjoy throughout the season.



## All I want for Christmas...

ben jacobson  
staff writer

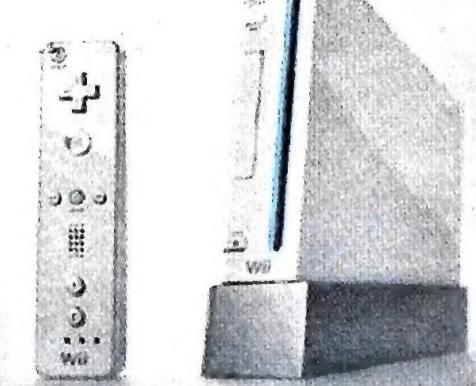
Every Christmas we are forced to endure countless school and church choirs featuring precocious little tonally challenged children screeching out renditions of "All I want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth." Parents love watching their spawn belch out this holiday classic and are more than willing to sacrifice musical competence for precious memories.

Unfortunately, the desire for teeth for the holidays is only applicable to young children and hillbillies. The rest of us are a bit more superficial in our Christmas desires.

Through my extensive research, conducted over at least twenty minutes, I have determined that, aside from the essentials like clothing, toiletries, rat poison and the insincere desires for happiness and world peace, folks generally want electronics. TVs, video games and other gadgets that our grandparents could never have dreamed of when they were our age no matter how many hallucinogens they may have ingested, are what we kids want these days.

Video games have been the hot ticket item for young people for the past few years, and 2008 will be no different. With the recent release of blockbusters "Gears of War 2," "Fallout 3," "Fable 2," "Call of Duty 5" and many others, vicariously living out latent homicidal tendencies against soulless digital enemies is a cheap possibility. You have to admit, paying \$60 to single-handedly wipe out the Nazi scourge is more cost-effective than a drawn-out land war.

Thanks to Nintendo's Wii, video games are becoming more accessible to demographics that have not been specifically targeted in the past. Nintendo's follow up to the dimly received "Gamecube" uses innovative controls that, in addition to allowing previously unheard of levels of video game interaction, let the entire family jump around like overly caffeinated rabbits with Tourette's syndrome. There are few things more entertaining than watching Grandma and Grandpa square off in a round of Wii boxing. That's a broken hip just waiting to happen. More than two years after its launch, the Wii is still difficult to find in stores, particu-



larly around the holidays.

Ray Bradbury, in "Fahrenheit 451," talked of walls in houses that functioned much like televisions, allowing passive individuals to lead a voyeuristic life, almost devoid of human interaction. Thanks to advances in technology, that glorious possibility is fast becoming reality. Huge plasma-

screen TVs are becoming bigger, cheaper and more readily available. The average cost of a plasma TV is about \$2500. This price includes TVs from the 13-inch models all the way up to the divine 72-inch screens. Plus, with after-Thanksgiving sales still going, it is quite possible to pick up a 32-inch television for under \$400. There is really nothing quite as satisfying as parking yourself on the couch with a cold beverage on a Sunday night and watching nearly life-size football

Though the economy is quickly being destroyed, it is unlikely that Christmas will be cancelled.

Though we may have to settle for the 50-inch TV instead of the 72-inch TV, or the smaller box of rat poison instead of the family size box, our capitalist society will prevail.



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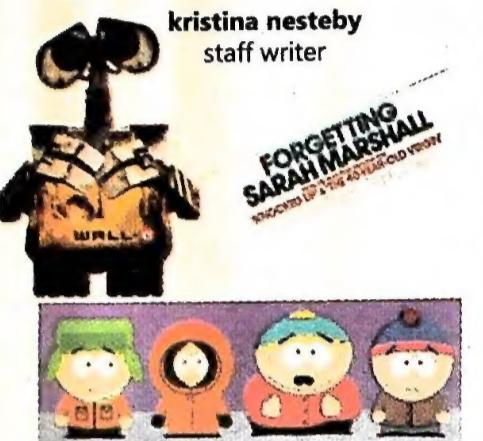
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# EXTRAS

Dec. 4, 2008

## Media Watch

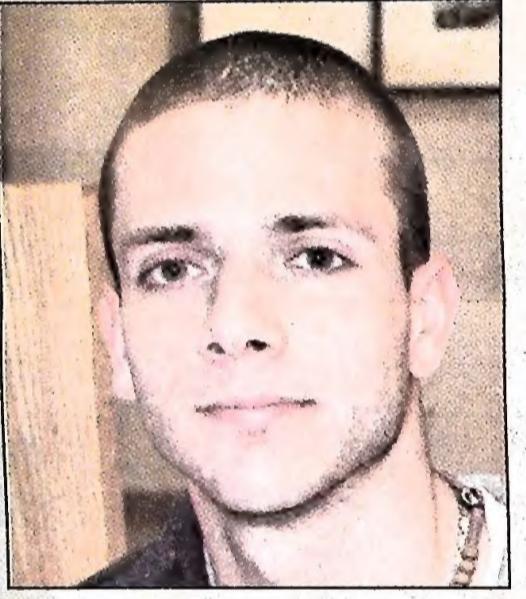
kristina nestby  
staff writer



## On the Street

pete lister  
staff writer

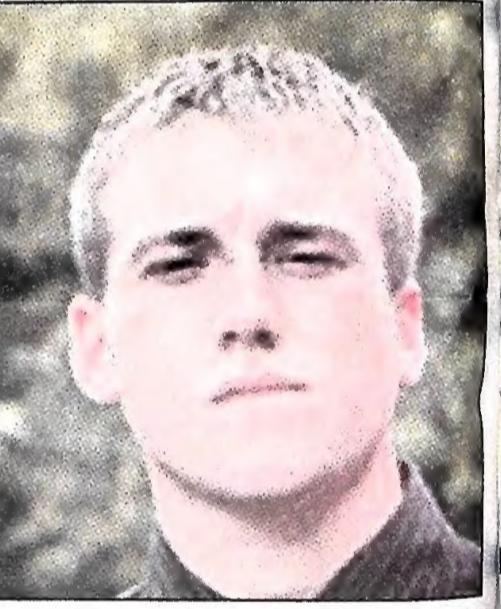
What's the worst Christmas gift you have received?



"There is no such thing as a bad Christmas gift."  
--Jason Kruse, senior business management major



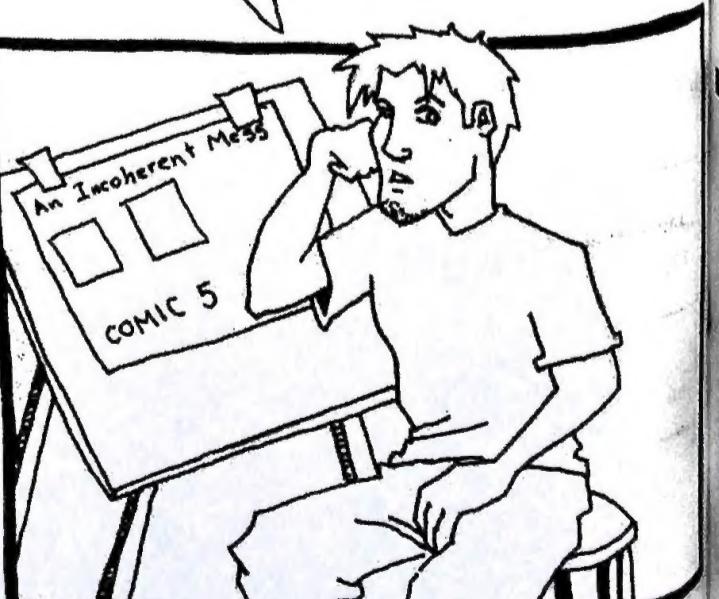
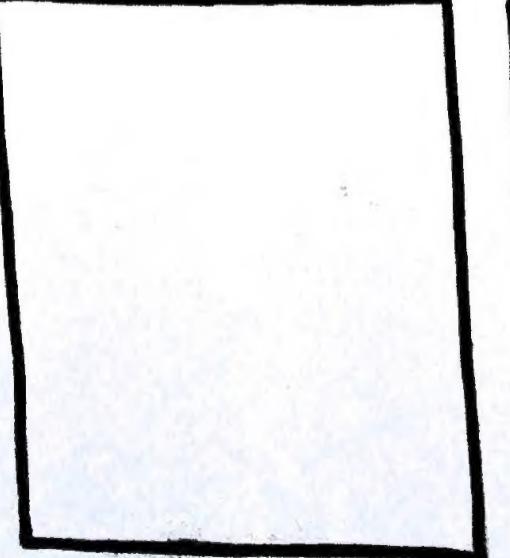
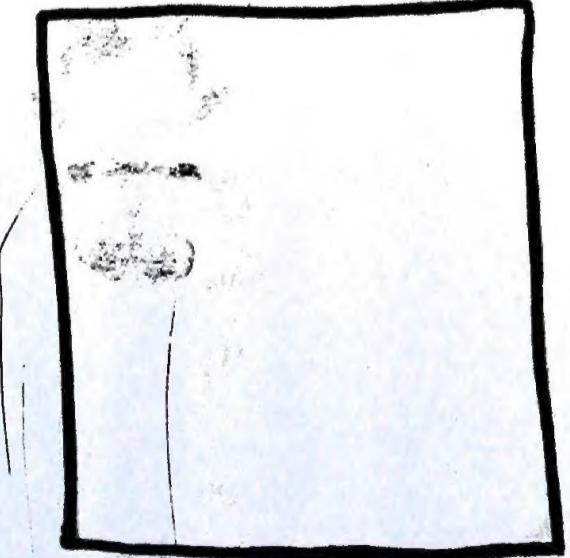
"One year as a Christmas gift my parents took me and my family to the Grand Canyon and we were snowed in for two days."  
--Mike Schermer, junior business administration major



"One year I got a travel checkers game because my mom thinks they're a lot of fun."  
--Dan Spain, senior kinesiology major

## An Incoherent Mess

dave tucker  
a & e editor



Feb. 5, 2009

IBM

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staff w

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